

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An impact sensor, comprising:  
a compressible medium that changes its conductivity as a function of a compression;  
and  
an arrangement for emitting, as a function of a change in conductivity, a signal that is indicative of a parameter characteristic of an impact.
2. The impact sensor as recited in Claim 1, wherein:  
the impact sensor is located in a bumper.
3. The impact sensor as recited in Claim 1, wherein:  
the impact sensor is affixed on a vehicle side.
4. The impact sensor as recited in Claim 3, wherein:  
the impact sensor is accommodated in a trim molding on the vehicle side.
5. The impact sensor as recited in Claim 3, wherein:  
the impact sensor is accommodated in a molding.
6. The impact sensor as recited in Claim 1, wherein:  
the compressible medium includes a foamed plastic.
7. The impact sensor as recited in Claim 6, wherein:  
the foamed plastic includes conductive foamed plastic arranged in combination with non-conductive foamed plastic.
8. A method of using an impact sensor including a compressible medium that changes its conductivity as a function of a compression, and an arrangement for emitting, as a function of a change in conductivity, a signal that is indicative of a parameter characteristic of an impact, the method comprising:  
using the impact sensor to detect a pedestrian impact.